Four finalists named in CAS dean search

Two internal candidates and two from outside the campus community have been named finalists in the search for a new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

The four will make public presentations on campus at the end of this month at times and locations that have yet to be announced. The finalists and dates of their public presentations are:

- Alexander J. Enyedi, senior associate dean of the WMU College of Arts and Sciences and professor of biological sciences, Monday, March 22.
- James H. Hageman, associate vice chancellor for research at the University of Colorado Denver and professor of chemistry, Monday, March 29.
- Susan R. Stapleton, associate dean of the WMU College of Arts and Sciences and professor of chemistry/biochemistry and biological sciences, Thursday, March 25.
- Scott W. Wood, dean of the College of Science at the University of Idaho and professor of geochemistry, Wednesday, March 24.

Visit www.wmich.edu/provost/announcements/index.html#CAS for complete information on each candidate.

Geosciences awarded clean coal research funding

A total of $350,000 in federal stimulus funds is being used to continue efforts aimed at developing clean coal technology that could result in a major new economic development opportunity for Michigan.

David A. Barnes, geosciences, is the principal investigator on two research projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. An award for nearly $44,000 comes from the U.S. Department of Energy and the Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative Inc., a nonprofit member-owned utility organization based in Cadillac, Mich. The second grant, for $306,000, comes from the DOE and the University of Illinois.

The funding will allow Barnes and his colleagues in WMU’s Michigan Geosciences Repository for Research and Education and the Geological Repository for Research and Education to evaluate the geological carbon sequestration potential of different deep geological formations in the state.

Carbon capture and sequestration, or CCS, is the capture and storage of greenhouse gas emissions deep below the ground in geologically appropriate areas. The technology has the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep consumer energy prices low while creating new jobs in a high-tech industry.

Recruitment advertisements garner national awards

For the second consecutive year, WMU’s recruitment advertising has won some of the top awards in an annual national competition that focuses on higher education marketing.

The WMU materials won top honors—Gold—in one category, one second-place Silver award and two Awards of Merit in the 25th annual Admissions Marketing Reports Admissions Advertising Awards.

Winners were announced early in March. The WMU ads won against major U.S. universities in a category reserved for schools with 20,000 or more students. Produced for the University by the Image Group of Holland, Mich., this year’s awards and projects are:

- Gold for this year’s “Smart Ride” billboard campaign featuring top-notch new freshmen on billboards placed in their home communities.
- Silver for a series of humorous “Smart Ride” radio commercials targeting prospective students.

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Sustainability fee to be explained

The WMU Sustainability Fund Initiative will be explained at a kickoff event for the Western Student Association’s annual election set for 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday, March 15, at the campus flagpoles and will include snacks and entertainment.

It is being sponsored by the President’s Universitywide Sustainability Committee to garner support for a proposed fee that would fund student-designed and led sustainability initiatives, an Office of Sustainability and a green jobs program.

Francophone film fest scheduled

The annual Francophone Film Festival will take place Wednesday through Sunday, March 17-21, in the Little Theatre. Visit www.wmich.edu/fffkazoost for festival costs and other details.

South Africa focus of Clark Lecture

“Judging in Black and White: Decision Making in the South African Appellate Division, 1950-2010” is the title of the Institute of Government and Politics’ 2009-10 Samuel I. Clark Lecture. The free talk by Stacia Haynie from Louisiana State University is set for 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in 2020 Fetzer Center.

KPS sixth-graders get to college life at WMU

A new WMU partnership will bring more than 900 Kalamazoo Public School sixth-grade students to campus during March and April to get a firsthand look at college life and the opportunities available through a college education.

The goal of the new WMU/KPS partnership, called Bronco BUDS—Building Understanding of Diversity through Student Leadership—is to encourage early middle school students to set their sights on college and take advantage of Kalamazoo Promise tuition scholarships.

“Not only do Kalamazoo’s young people have the gift of the Kalamazoo Promise, they also have the advantage of living in a community that is home to a major public research university,” WMU President John M. Dunn says about Bronco BUDS.

As part of the program, KPS’s 954 sixth-graders will be brought to the University for a day to engage in hands-on activities related to choosing a college career, tour the campus and eat lunch in a dining hall. The daylong visits will begin Monday, March 15, and end Wednesday, April 14.

Plans call for Bronco BUDS to be an annual program for KPS sixth-graders. It will be reinforced with programs each year before taking place at the close of Class of 2016 and continuing as these students move toward high school graduation.

For more information, contact Montez Morales, coordinator of college visitation activities for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at montez.o.morales@wmich.edu or 387-6325.

International Festival set

The music, dance, food and fashions of 15 cultures representing five continents will be spotlighted during the 2010 International Festival from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday, March 21, in the Bernhard Center’s East Ballroom.

The event features display tables, cultural performances and a fashion show. Admission is free, and for a nominal fee, attendees may sample traditional foods prepared by international students in campus kitchens under the supervision of employees of WMU Dining Services.

Jobs

Current job opportunities at WMU are announced daily on the Human Resources Web site at www.wmich.edu/hr/careers-at-wmu.html. Please note that applications must be submitted online by the stated deadline. Complete application procedures are included with each posting.
Healthy-living advocate to give talk for WMU employees

Four sessions of a wellness talk for all WMU employees have been slated for later this month. "WalkyTalk" will feature Jodi Davis, walking spokesperson for Blue Cross Blue Shield, who will discuss how she lost 162 pounds by walking and eating healthy and has kept the weight off for six years.

Those attending the talk will have an opportunity to personally speak with Davis, and information about wellness resources will be available.

Three of the talk sessions will be held in 4010 Health and Human Services Building. They will take place from 8:30 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, March 24; 1:45 to 2:15 p.m. Thursday, March 25; and 2:45 to 3:15 p.m.

Retirement reception

The campus community is invited to attend a retirement reception for Jewell Street, institutional equity, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 17, in the Multicultural Center of the Trumpe Building. Street will be honored for 31 years of service to the institutional equity, from 3:30 to 5:50 p.m. Thursday, March 25; and 2:45 to 3:15 p.m.

Faculty members encouraged to take part in national survey

WMU is one of hundreds of U.S. colleges and universities participating in the 2010 Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, a national research project that studies faculty perspectives on student engagement.

The survey period begins Tuesday, March 23, when the instructors of all 2010 spring semester undergraduate, credit-bearing courses will receive an invitation to participate. Faculty members will have through April 30 to respond and complete the online questions. FSSE officials will send the e-mail invitations under the signature of WMU President John M. Dunn.

“We encourage faculty to share their observations by completing the FSSE,” says Eileen B. Evans, vice provost for institutional effectiveness. “The survey gathers information through anonymous online responses and takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. It will help identify areas of strength at WMU, as well as aspects of the undergraduate experience that may need attention.”

Piloted in 2003, the FSSE is now in its eighth year of administration. It works in conjunction with the National Survey of Student Engagement. Data collected by the two surveys can be compared to identify gaps in perceptions between faculty and students at participating institutions.

“Both FSSE and NSSE data will support and reinforce student engagement efforts already under way at WMU,” Evans says. FSSE collects data to discover the types of educational experiences offered at each participating school as well as faculty practices at these schools related to teaching, performing research and other professional activities. These data allow WMU to compare information collected from its previous surveys and compare faculty experiences across lower- and upper-level courses.

For more information, contact Eileen Evans at eileen.evans@wmich.edu or 387-2314

Reconstituted journal features graduate work

Mitigating sectarian protests in divided nations and a display of colorful portraits and whimsical artwork are being featured in a new WMU journal being compiled by graduate students and faculty.

Called the Hilltop Review, the periodical serves as an introduction to the publication process, enabling graduate students to not only submit their work, but also involved in peer reviews and an editorial board.

The first issue was released by the Graduate Student Advisory Committee late last fall. It received an International Standard Serial Number, which identifies periodicals worldwide. This allowed the Hilltop Review to be shared with other Michigan universities and the Library of Congress.

“Our aim is to produce a quality product that represents the plethora of amazing research that comes from the WMU graduate student body,” says Brandi Pritchett, GSAC chair.

The multidisciplinary journal is edited by Lofri Ben Othmane, a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science. It was previously published online in 2005 through 2007.

Obituary

Marie Stevens, dean emeritus of students, died March 7, it was learned just before Western News press time. Stevens was a WMU staff member from 1957 to 1981. An April memorial service is being planned.

Noted muralist ‘greens up’ environmental studies office

Alumnus Conrad Kaufman didn’t start out to be a full-time muralist, but his love for painting recently brought him back to his alma mater in a grand way.

Kaufman, who earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology in 1986 but became a full-time artist in 1995, spent eight weeks on campus from December through February.

During his residency, he completed a major mural project in the third-floor suite of Wood that is occupied by the Environmental Studies Program. The mural features a continuum of landscapes in the Kalamazoo area, from urban to agricultural to wilderness.

The artwork will be unveiled officially during a public open house and reception from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Friday, April 2, in Suite 3900 Wood. The open house will be one of the final events in WMU’s 2010 Earth Week celebration.

“We hope the mural will encourage students, faculty and visitors to gather in the Environmental Studies suite,” says Lynne Heasley, interim director of the Environmental Studies Program. “Students, especially, have been extremely enthusiastic as the mural has unfolded.”

Kaufman, whose work is widely admired in the Kalamazoo area and beyond, has more than a student connection to WMU. His father, Maynard, was a faculty member here for 40 years.

“I still have a student connection to WMU,” Kaufman says. “A few years ago, I did a mural in the third-floor suite of Wood that is occupied by the Environmental Studies Program. The mural features a continuum of landscapes in the Kalamazoo area, from urban to agricultural to wilderness.”

Kaufman’s mural. (Photos by Lynne Heasley)
Kandeiss-Toi Ross has spent more than two decades helping WMU employees and retirees understand the plethora of information available about their health and life insurance policies, flexible spending accounts, leave applications and other employee rights and responsibilities.

Working in human resources for 21 years, Ross started as a clerk and moved into her current role three years later as a human resources assistant. Her task of being a liaison between employees and retirees and WMU’s insurance provider, Blue Cross Blue Shield, brings a great deal of variety to her job as well as the opportunity to meet many people in the University community.

“I enjoy meeting the employees and the retirees,” Ross says. “The important thing is understanding what the employee needs are.”

Regulations and policies have changed over the years regarding various plans and programs, and the volume of work Ross and her co-worker Celeste Bertholet handle in the department also has increased as the University has grown.

The busiest time for the two human resource assistants is typically the fall, when WMU welcomes many of its new faculty employees. But Ross notes that services such as new-employee orientation have moved online, to provide more flexibility for employees.

A native of Chicago, she worked for insurance companies there and in Houston before coming to WMU to live closer to her family in southwest Michigan. Ross is actively involved in planning WMU’s 25-Year Club Gala. The fall event honors employees who have been at the University for a quarter of a century, and now she’s approaching that milestone, herself.

Ross is a member of WMU’s Professional Support Staff Organization and has served on its board as well as worked on several of its committees.

She and her husband, James, live in Portage and have three grown daughters, including one who will be transferring from Kalamazoo Valley Community College to WMU in the fall. Ross is active in her church, Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and enjoys traveling and spending time with her two-year-old grandson.

WMUK launches innovative spring pledge drive

Hunger relief and raising funds for WMUK are coming together in an innovative approach to the station’s spring pledge drive before on-air pledging begins March 20. WMUK-FM, the University’s public radio station, is joining the Partnership for Hunger Relief, which is a unique collaboration of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes and the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. The effort will raise dollars for funding WMUK programs while addressing the problem of hunger within the Kalamazoo area through a separate gift from the Kalamazoo Community Foundation to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

The Kalamazoo Community Foundation has agreed to make a gift to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes equal to 10 percent of dollars pledged or donated to WMUK before the spring drive, which officially runs March 20-26. This offer is extended for the first $150,000 raised by WMUK and could result in a $15,000 gift to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes.

But that’s not all. If the station can raise $150,000 in pledges or donations to WMUK, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation will donate an additional $5,000 to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, for a $20,000 total. All donations made by listeners will go only to WMUK. All contributions from the Community Foundation to Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes are separate gifts over and above WMUK spring pledge drive dollars.

Additionally, pre-drive mail-in contributions and pledging online at the station’s Web site at www.wmuk.org will be significant factors in helping WMUK reduce pledge hours while raising the funds necessary to purchase programs such as “Morning Edition” and “All Things Considered.” WMUK’s Web-ticker at wmuk.org will feature up-to-date results of the station’s fundraising effort now through the end of the drive and provide updates on the Partnership for Hunger Relief.

Recruitment advertisements

In last year’s competition, WMU captured two Golds—one for the 2009 admissions viewbook and another for a series of radio ads. A third-place Bronze award for the University’s 30-second television spot and three Awards of Merit rounded out the honors.

In the 2010 competition, WMU’s materials were honored in the same categories with those from such schools as the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, University of Texas-Arlington, Indiana University and Purdue University.

This is the third year WMU has used recruitment materials conceived and executed by the Image Group.